

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-based method for multi-dimensional data entry in a spreadsheet application,
the method comprising:

providing a multi-dimensional data storage source;

configuring a spreadsheet to display a plurality of elements of the multi-dimensional
5 data storage in an initial unedited state;

allowing a user to edit a data value of an element in the plurality of elements;

displaying the edited data values in the spreadsheet; and

allowing the user at least two options, one option being to commit the edited data
values to the multi-dimensional data storage, a second option being to return the multi-
dimensional data storage to the initial unedited state.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein configuring a spreadsheet further comprises:

using spreadsheet-based data structures to enable a correspondence between a
spreadsheet data cell and a cell in the multi-dimensional data storage source.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein allowing the user to edit a data value further includes:

storing the edited data values individually in a data storage source separate from the
multi-dimensional data storage source.

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4. The method of claim 1, the method further comprising, after the displaying step and

before the step of allowing the user at least two options, a step of:

allowing the user to discard an edit to the edited data values without discarding every
such edit.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein an interactive dialog wizard guides at least part of the
user's interaction with the method.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented as an add-in to the
spreadsheet application.

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7. A computer apparatus for multi-dimensional data entry in a spreadsheet application, the apparatus comprising:
 - a central processing unit, random-access memory, a storage device, and devices for user input and output interconnected by a bus, together with computer-readable instructions capable of causing the processing unit to perform the steps of:
 - providing a multi-dimensional data storage source;
 - configuring a spreadsheet to display a plurality of elements of the multi-dimensional data storage in an initial unedited state;
 - allowing a user to edit a data value of an element in the plurality of elements;
 - displaying the edited data values in the spreadsheet;
 - allowing the user to discard an edit to the edited data values without discarding every such edit; and
 - allowing the user at least two options, one option being to commit the edited data values to the multi-dimensional data storage, a second option being to return the multi-dimensional data storage to the initial unedited state.